

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WINTER 1976

Quarterly



The Society is a non-profit corporation organized under charter by the State of Vermont and invites membership of all regardless of age or residence. Our primary interest is the history of the four communities of Rutland City, Rutland Town, West Rutland and Proctor which were chartered in 1761 as the Township of Rutland by Benning Wentworth, the Governor of the Province of New Hampshire. Dues are \$2.00 per year; contributing memberships are \$10.00 per year. The *Quarterly* is published every three months by the Society; F. P. Elwert is editor. Comments and suggestions are always welcome and may be sent to the Society at 101 Center Street, Rutland.

Museum: 101 Center Street, Rutland, Vermont.

Treasurer: George J. Covalt. West Rutland, Vermont

Rutland has a Bicentennial Sister City-Costa Mesa, California. At the time Vermonters were fighting to overcome the political power of the English king, the Spaniards in Mexico were active in spreading their influence in California at the expense of the English. In a recent issue of Costa Mesa's *Bicentennial Gazette* the trek of Juan Bautista Anza northward to Monterey is featured next to an account of Vermont's symbolic observance of General Knox's trek with captured cannons to Boston. Both feats ended successfully in March 1776.



MUSEUM IMPROVEMENTS

During the fall and winter the electrical wiring on the first floor has been modernized. The cellar has been repaired. Painting the interior and the windows will be a late spring project. These projects are possible through a grant from the State Bicentennial Commission, matched by the City of Rutland.

BICENTENNIAL EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Tuesday, March 23. At Rutland Free Library, joint meeting of historical societies with Professor H. N. Muller of UVN.

Sunday, May 2. Loyalty Day Parade.

Monday, May 10. LOVE project.

Sunday, June 6. Opening of Society's Museum.

Photos by Tom Egan

The Spring and Summer issues of the *Quarterly* will be combined in one large thirty-two page guide to the historic sites and interesting buildings of the four Rutland communities.



This issue features a Bicentennial observance that was conceived, planned and executed by seniors in the nineteen high schools of southern Vermont. Hundreds of students participated actively in an event they will remember as long as they live; thousands of children and adults witnessed the journey of a student-made wooden cannon across the state from Brattleboro to Lake Chaplain. This symbolic journey commemorated the Green Mountain Boys who captured the cannons at Fort Ticonderoga, May 10, 1775, that were used by General George Washington in March 1776 to break the British hold on Boston.

★ NEW YORK ★

"HYPOTENUSE to HISTORY- A PRELUDE to
 Reenactment of Col^o Henry Knox's
 CANNONTREK- WINTER 1775-76
 A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT BY
 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
 OF
 SOUTHERN
 VERMONT

★ MASSACHUSETTS ★

The cannon symbolic of those captured by the Green Mountain Boys and dragged over the snow to Boston was made of wood by students at the Rutland Vocational-Technical Center under the supervision of faculty member Art Williams.



Rutland Vo-Tec students load their handiwork on truck for delivery to the starting point of the journey, Brattleboro.



10 November 1975. From the Common in Brattleboro the cannon is hauled in the rain by a spirited Brattleboro High crew. State Police escort protected the students during entire journey.



11 November 1975. The Mount Anthony Union High Seniors pose in Westminster after their speedy haul from Putney.



12 November. The Terriers of Bellows Falls High move the cannon up the west bank of the Connecticut River to Route 103.



13 November. In the hands of Leland and Grey Academy the field piece is drawn up Route 103 to Chester.



Cooperating postmasters and postmistresses stamped Bicentennial passbooks carried by the trekkers. The postmistress of Bartonsville cancels the books.



Stephanie DeSantis, chief of the Leland and Grey crew.



14 November. Green Mountain Union High Students rushed through snow and rain to Gassets.



17 November. Springfield High young people march smartly to the beat of local town band in Cavendish.



18 November. The Black River High crew pauses for ceremonies at the Park in Ludlow.



19 November. Hartford and Woodstock High crews shared transportation for their stint up the East slope of the Green Mountains.



19 November. Woodstock students near the summit in Mount Holly.



20 November. The Bulldogs of Burr and Burton after their trek from Mount Holly to Cuttingsville.



21 November. The undaunted Poultney High crew strikes off in the rain towards Pierce's Corners.



24 November. The Mill River Union High Minutemen pause enroute to Rutland.



In North Clarendon the Mill River crew relates the story of Col. Henry Knox to students of the Clarendon Grade School.



25 November. Proctor High seniors participate in ceremonies at the Green Mountain Boy statue in Federal Park, Rutland.



26 November. West Rutland crew at the Williams farm in Rutland Town. Ramrod made by Rutland Town Grade School students is at left.



1 December. After the long Thanksgiving weekend students at Otter Valley Union High greet their classmates.



2 December. Otter Valley crew takes to the road again due to default of Middlebury High (scheduled for this day) and pauses at the Bandstand in Brandon.



3 and 4 December. The two friendly rivals, Rutland High and Mt. St. Joseph Academy join forces in moving the cannon despite gusty winds from Brandon to Orwell.



5 December. The makers of the cannon, Rutland Vo-Tec, have the anchor leg ending at Hand's Cove.



The day the cannon leaves Fort Ticonderoga for Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. John H. G. Pell, owner of Fort Ticonderoga and Chairman of the New York State Bicentennial Commission was luncheon host in his home to a contingent of student leaders from the Green Mountain state. From the left: Mr. Pell; William Kantorski, Tim Dombro and Susan Morrello of Rutland High; Andrew Motroni of Mt. St. Joseph Academy; John S. Burgess, Chairman of the Vermont Bicentennial Commission.

The student leaders met again in Cambridge on 27 January for ceremonies in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of the delivery of the Ticonderoga cannon to General Washington.

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Rutland, Vt.
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